GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:72
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
DEMANDS OF GRAMIN DAK SEVAKS
AJAY CHAKRABORTY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the designation of the Extra Departmental Agents in Department of Posts has been changed to Gramin Dak Sewaks;

(b) if so, whether any specific rules have been framed in regard to working conditions of the Gramin Dak Sewaks;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any decision has been taken to settle the long pending demands of GDS; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e): Gramin Dak Sevaks are employed for a period of duty ranging from 2 to 5 hours a day. They do not form part of the regular civil services and their terms & conditions of employment are governed by separate set of rules, earlier named P&T ED Agents (Conduct & Service) Rules, 1964, and now amended as Gramin Dak Sevaks (Conduct & Employment) Rules, 2001, incorporating the changed nomenclature of EDAs and also the specific characteristics of the ED system.In the context of 5th Central Pay Commission for regular Central Government Employees, the Government had set up a one man committee headed by Justice Charanjeet Talwar to examine the wage structure and other conditions of employment of ED Agents. After due consideration of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, the Government extended the following package of benefits to Gramin Dak Sevaks:

(i) Increasing the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.25 for a period 1.1.96 to 28.2.1998.

(ii) Introducing the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) in respect of Gramin Dak Sevaks in lieu of monthly allowance related to workload.

(iii) Increasing the amount of ex-gratia gratuity admissible to Gramin Dak Savaks from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-

(iv) Introducing the concept of paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.

(v) Increasing office maintenance allowance admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks BPM from Rs.25/- to Rs.50/- per month.

(vi) Providing for lump sum Severance Amount of Rs.20,000/- or Rs.30,000/- depending on period of employment as post employment benefit, on discharge from employment at the age of 65 years or on the death in harness or on the absorption against departmental post.

These benefits were extended in full and final settlement of all pending demands relating to recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee. As regards demand for pension, no Govt. sponsored Social Security Scheme was found to be feasible, specially when provision for Severance Amount already exists. A Social Security scheme formulated in consultation with LIC has been forwarded to the Postal Federations.